

## **SOUTHWEST REGION HURRICANE RITA UPDATE OF OCTOBER 1, 2005 – 1300 HOURS**

### **PERSONNEL STATUS:**

Number of employees assigned to the team: 69 FWS – 1 USFS

Sunday, October 2, 2005 will be the last scheduled Central Command briefing at 0845 and conference call at 0900 between the Regional Office, the Incident Command Team and those Field Stations that received direct impact from the Hurricane. However, daily correspondence will continue between the Regional Office, Team, and Field Stations, but the focus will be directed to those requiring the most immediate attention.

Employees must make requests for assistance through the Team who will then place the request to the Hurricane Rita Dispatch Desk for coordination. All personnel support, boats, vehicles, equipment and supplies are to be requested and assigned through the system.

A Critical Stress Debriefing unit has been ordered. Employees needing immediate assistance can call a counselor at 1-800-222-0364 24-hours a day. The Employees Assistance Program for this incident will be expanded to include assistance with insurance claims.

**COSTS TO DATE:** About \$15 million in damages

### **General Updates:**

- Upper Texas Coast Refuges remain closed to the public
- Fuel shortages continue
- Progress made in facilitation of school enrollments; western Chambers County school districts opened Friday
- More energy company camp activities taking place—good sign
- Approximately 75% of employees homes have been checked on by LE
- Refuge patrols continue
- Two helicopter flyovers have been conducted to assess facilities
- USGS satellite has produced good quality images of hurricane impacted areas
- Refuge Chief Ciccone following up to see if aerial survey still needed by R2's Service pilot-biologist, Jim Bredy

## **SOUTHWEST REGION T-3 COMMAND TEAM DAILY REPORT 10/01/05**

**PHONE LINES FOR ICP: 281-573-4513 or 4514**

**FAX WITH COVER SHEET TO: 281-573-1823**

### **T-3 Incident Action Plan (IAP) for October 1, 2005 :**

- Team preparing for closeout meeting on Sunday, October 2 at 4 PM
- Wrapping up task lists
- Assessment of remote operations needs continues
- Assessment of generator needs and installation of power points, repairs to NWR sites continues
- Set-up, clean-up, hook-up, and occupation of temporary housing for displaced refuge employees will take place over this weekend
- Emergency stabilization of NWR's continues

### **September 30 Report**

- No accidents to date
- One minor incident of poison ivy exposure
- 13 trailers (for displaced refuge employees and families) were received and set up on pads at a park on Hwy 565 near Cove, TX. Six were cleaned and are ready for occupancy. Additional four are due to arrive 10/1.

- Eight industrial fans received late in the day
- Law enforcement began working in Jefferson County at the request of County Sheriff (further details below)
- Heavy vehicle traffic continues as evacuees return home to Gulf Coast communities
- Prepared and distributed news release regarding refuge closures

### **McFaddin NWR and Port Arthur, TX**

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Sheet rock removed from check station (water damaged and molding)
- Generator power point/disconnect installation completed at McFaddin (fire cache, storage shed, check station and headquarters)
- Rafters on lean-to storage shed framed and roofed
- Fans and two dehumidifiers set up to dry out visitor center
- Further assessed damages at Clam Lake Bridge

#### **Updated damage assessment:**

- Clam Lake Road wood plank bridge has irreparable structural damage
- 30'x 80' building with no power. Wall skin separated from frame and damaged wiring and conduit
- Fuel island can not be powered through building

### **Texas Point NWR**

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Tree limbs removed from entrance

#### **Updated damage assessment:**

- Still too saturated and soft to put trucks into needed work areas

### **Trinity River NWR**

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Cleared 3½ miles of handicap hunter trails

#### **Updated damage assessment:**

- Still too saturated and soft to put trucks into some needed work areas
- Crews will continue to restore trail access 10/1

### **Anahuac NWR and Anahuac, TX:**

- GSA electrical power assessment coming this week

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Saw crews and heavy equipment moved from McFaddin to Anahuac

#### **Updated damage assessment:**

- Salt water barrier (West Line Road) concrete pipes are plugged and erosion around headwall

### **Law Enforcement Emergency Assistance (summary report to-date):**

- **First time in history** – Federal law enforcement officers (10) were deputized in Jefferson County, Texas
- FWS LE conducted two drug arrests at Red Cross evacuation center
- Updates to 9/29 LE summary report (evening patrols in Chambers County):
  - 30 curfew violations
  - 10 suspicious subjects
  - 50 public assists (provided info, MREs, water, etc.)

- 10 911-call responses
- 10 vehicle violations
- 3 pursuits/officer assistance
- 3 vehicle accidents (assisted with traffic control)
- SORT demobilized 10/1 AM

## **END OF REPORT**

### **INFORMATION ACCESS:**

#### **CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS COUNSELORS CAN BE REACHED 24-HOURS AT:**

**1-800- 222-0364**

### **INTERNET:**

Anyone seeking information on Hurricane Rita may do so via these Service links:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>    <http://www.fws.gov/>

#### **R-2 HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION/DISPATCH DESK:**

Employees can reach the Southwest Region's Command Center's Hurricane Rita Emergency Information Desk by e-mail or text messaging at: [hurricanerita@fws.gov](mailto:hurricanerita@fws.gov)

### **TELEPHONE:**

The Emergency Information and resources Dispatch Desk is being staffed at the Regional Office from 0600 to 1800 daily thru Sunday, October 2, 2005. The Desk is serving as a centralized communications base for all affected staff and offices.

#### **\*HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION DESK**

**PHONE NUMBER: 505-248-6508    FAX: 505-248-6475**

Employees may check for pre-recorded information on the Region's 24-Hour Emergency Phone Line at:

**\*24-Hour Employee Emergency Hotline: 505-248-6543**

**NOTE:** Any media inquiries may be coordinated by External Affairs: 505-248-6911

Daily updates will be completed by COB each day and press releases issued as necessary.

## **END OF REPORT**